

For me, the hardest part of being a mom is knowing that I did not receive the same love, support, and comfort that my child will. Accepting that I didn't get the mom I deserve, and choosing to do everything differently. Remembering all the times I heard her say, 'wait until you're a mom, and then you'll understand.' And knowing that what she meant was, I would understand why parenting was so hard and she couldn't do better.

But all that I have learned since becoming a mom, is that nothing is hard about being accountable, honest, and responsible for the way you treat your child. And nothing is easier than showing your child how much you love them. Nothing is easier than accepting the love your child has to give, and treasuring it, rather than pushing it away.

Being a mom is coming to terms with the way I should've been treated, and the changes I can make now.

I know that I am a comfort to my child, a salve, a calming breath. And each time I feel that I take his troubles away, I know I am also soothing the child I once was, whose mother would instead criticize her and blame her for her troubles. I know that my child will learn that love is unconditional, bottomless, and untethered to the expected frustrations of the day-to-day. Each time I can be the one to provide comfort for my child, I remind myself of how I should've been treated, and show myself that this gift that I am giving to my child, of unconditional love, is one that will be taken for granted. And to know that means I will have succeeded.

"Out of the love we have for our children, we are given the opportunity to be our best selves."

-Sarah Ockwell-Smith

(A quote I like)